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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q63803

Hisao HIRAMATSU, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/817,251

Group Art Unit: 1723

Confirmation No.: 8044

Examiner: Tony Glen Soohoo

Filed: March 27, 2001

For: METHOD FOR STIRRING LIQUID

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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John T. Callahan
Registration No. 32,607

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 30, 2004



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

U.S. Patent No. 5,482,863, issued January 9, 1996;

U.S. Patent No. 5,482,864, issued January 9, 1996;

U.S. Patent No. 4,861,554, issued August 29, 1989;

U.S. Patent No. 4,436,822, issued March 13, 1984;

European Patent No. 0 670 483 A2, published September 6, 1995;

World Patent No. WO 93/25309, published December 23, 1993;

Japanese Patent No. 62-184357, published August 12, 1987 (w/ concise explanation in the English language);

Japanese Patent No. 7-55818, published March 32, 1995 (w/ concise explanation in the English language);

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/817,251

Japanese Patent No. 64-27626, published January 30, 1989 (w/ concise explanation in the English language);

Japanese Patent No. 6-39266, published February 15, 1994 (w/ concise explanation in the English language); and

European Patent No. 0 607 442 A1, published April 15, 2003.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.


In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with a concise explanation in the English-language of the foreign patents.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/817,251

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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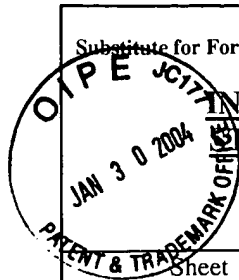
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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/817,251
Confirmation Number	8044
Filing Date	March 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hisao HIRAMATSU
Art Unit	1723
Examiner Name	Tony Glen Soohoo
Attorney Docket Number	Q63803

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 5,482,863		01/09/1996	Knobel
		US 5,482,864		01/09/1996	Knobel
		US 4,861,554		08/29/1989	Sakuma
		US 4,436,822		03/13/1984	Esefan
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		EP	0 670 483	A2	09/06/1995	Makino	
		WO	93/25309		12/23/1993	Kaartinen	
		JP	62-184357		08/12/1987		
		JP	7-55818		03/03/1995		
		JP	64-27626		01/30/1989		
		JP	6-39266		02/15/1994		
		EP	0 607 442	A1	04/15/1993		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.